

and the Texas College of Probate Judges, and said no one had raised any question about the constitutionality of the bill at any point in the legislative process. Rep. Wright commented, "The Governor is as weak a lawyer as he is a governor."

NOTES: The House Study Group analysis of HB 748 appeared in the May 7 Daily Floor Report.

Captial-expenditure tax for junior-college branches
(HB 784 by Uher)

DIGEST: A school district or county may now levy a property tax of up to five cents per \$100 valuation for operation and maintenance of a junior-college district's branch campus. This bill would have permitted property-tax revenue also to be used to purchase real estate and to fund capital construction of branch campuses.

GOVERNOR'S
REASONS
FOR VETO:

The Governor said the bill, which authorized the use of property-tax revenue for a new purpose, might have interfered with the options available to the Select Committee on Higher Education. Also, the bill was intended to allow Lamar Consolidated Independent School District to erect a permanent branch of Wharton County Junior College in Fort Bend County. Since the local election to authorize taxation for that purpose failed in April, the Governor said the bill was unnecessary.

SPONSOR'S
VIEW:

Rep. Uher called the Governor's reasons for the veto "off base" and said the Governor "didn't understand what we were doing." He said that the bill was limited in its effect, so it wouldn't have affected the state's options. It is speculative to base a veto on the future actions of the Select Committee on Higher Education, Uher said, and predicted that the committee would expand, not restrict the role of junior colleges. The bill did not pass until after the authorizing election, Uher said, so it was not possible to explain the bill to the voters. He thought the tax would be approved if there could be another election, with time to explain the need for a permanent campus in Fort Bend County.

NOTES: The House Study Group analysis of HB 784 appeared in the April 2 Daily Floor Report.